



NEWS

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George Kostyrko, CYA Assistant Director, Communications (916) 262-1479

Deborah Johnson, Information Officer, O. H. Close Youth Correctional Facility (209) 944-6391

CYA'S JOHANNA BOSS HIGH SCHOOL HOLDS GRADUATION

STOCKTON--"Building Our Future in the New Millennium" is the graduation theme of the ceremony to be held at California Youth Authority's (CYA) Johanna Boss High School (JBHS), 7650 South Newcastle Road in Stockton on Friday, July 21 at 1:30 p.m.

Twenty-four students will receive high school diplomas, two students will receive certificates of completion and two students will receive general education development certificates in the company of family, guests and staff in the community auditorium. Fifteen of the graduates have honor roll status with grade point averages of 3.0 or better. Student participation in the ceremony includes a valedictorian speech, an essay selected from the graduates' senior presentations, and musical selections from the JBHS Band. In addition to meeting all the state requirements for academic standards for high school graduates, CYA students must earn a minimum of 10 character education credits in courses that address such topics as victimization, violence, anger management, parenting, and employability.

Johanna Boss High School is one of eleven high schools administered by the Education Services Branch of the CYA. The school is named after Ms. Johanna Boss, a retired teacher who, at the age of 92, still volunteers her time three mornings a week to tutoring students in mathematics. The comprehensive secondary school serves the educational needs of wards at the O. H. Close Youth Correctional Facility in Stockton.

Guest speaker for the graduation ceremony is David Osborne, Assistant Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency. This cabinet-level agency is composed of 12 departments that cover a wide range of government services including civil rights enforcement and crime victim compensation. Mr. Osborne previously served as an appointee at the Office for Victims of Crime in the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D. C., where he helped oversee the development of rights and services for crime victims.

"Education is one of the most effective tools a juvenile offender can have to rebuild his or her life," said CYA Director Jerry L. Harper. "Each time we celebrate a graduation, we are hoping it is a step toward a crime-free existence."

Out of the approximately 6,500 students in CYA high school programs last year, 558 earned diplomas, with an additional 565 completing GED requirements and 29 earning AA degrees.

The CYA provides institutional training and parole supervision for juvenile and young adult offenders. The department also works with community organizations, local law enforcement and other agencies on gang and drug suppression and delinquency prevention activities.

The department is responsible for 12,300 juvenile and young adult offenders, with 7,500 in 11 institutions and four conservation camps, and 4,800 on parole. In addition, more than 16,000 crime victims are on record to receive services from the department.

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